A. What is a research article?  
(Also known as peer-reviewed, expert-reviewed, editorial board reviewed, double blind peer-reviewed, or journal article)  
An article in a professional or scholarly journal reporting on a scientific study, investigation or experiment. Research articles undergo a special evaluation process before being accepted for publication. The articles are reviewed by a panel of experts or “peers” in the same field as the author. Peers are selected as evaluators because they know the discipline or practice and will be able to judge the merits of the author’s research report.

B. Typical research article includes these sections:  
1. Author credentials and affiliation – educational degrees, employer, contact information  
2. Abstract – summary of the article  
3. Literature review – review of other published articles related to the topic.  
4. Methodology of experiment – describes the testing and research process  
5. Research results - describes what the testing revealed.  
6. Areas of further study – recommendations for other possible research projects.  
7. Conclusion – a summary of what the research revealed.  
8. Bibliography – list of articles and books that were read in preparation for the article.

C. Where are research articles published?  
Peer-reviewed articles are found in scholarly and professional journals.

D. Comparing Journals to Magazines:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Journal (scholarly, professional)</th>
<th>Magazine (popular)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>report new research in a field, professional news</td>
<td>report general news and information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>long articles; reviewed by experts (peer-review); bibliographies, ads targeted toward professional needs</td>
<td>article size varies, no bibliographies, popular subjects; informal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>practitioners, scholars, and professionals in the field</td>
<td>general public, hobbyists, special interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorship</td>
<td>practitioners, scholars, and professionals in the field</td>
<td>paid staff writers, journalists, reports, NOT necessarily experts</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
<td>related to profession development and practice</td>
<td>retail, commercial, consumer products</td>
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<td>Examples</td>
<td>Journal for the theory of social behavior, Journal of political &amp; military sociology, Social behavior and personality</td>
<td>This Old House, Motor Trend, Sports Illustrated, People, Oprah, Real Simple</td>
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E. Where do I find journals with peer-reviewed articles?  
- personal subscriptions  
- library subscriptions including the Gateway Library article databases (electronic collections of magazines & journals) such as EbscoHost.

F. Why use article databases? Why not just use the Internet?  
- There is no quality control over what is posted on the Internet. If you are looking for information that is reliable and professionally reviewed, you don’t want articles that are trying to sell you something!  
- No fees. You may be asked to pay for journal articles on the Internet. Gateway can supply them free of charge!  
- No advertising. No pop-ups, no surveys, no contests, no drawings, no sweepstake offers.  
- MLA and APA citations are provided. Database publishers support educational use and offer citation information.

Gateway Technical College subscribes to many journals in the article database collections. At the Gateway Library web page, click on the Resource Guides or database suggestions by course.  
You can also find a listing of all Databases A-Z under the Find Articles tab. You can access these databases on or off campus, through Blackboard or through the Library web site. Your username and password are the same ones you use for WebAdvisor, Blackboard, and your Gateway student email.